A FAIR SLAVE TO THE MAHDI-By CHAS. EDWARD BARNS. A Tale of Strange Happenings in the Soudan

Sunday, October 9.

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS. Exploring Darkest Africa; three Americans and a girl, Dorothy Stanslaus, fall into the hands of the ferocious Mahdi. Her life is despaired of, when she is rescued by Bardoff, a Russian prince, who was captured by the Mahdi, but freed. He takes her to a deserted temple, when they find they are pursued. They get a khalifa's steam yacht and sail down the Nile. After countless perils they near safety.

CHAPTER XXI-(Continued).

There was but a moment in which to break the line, and the prince did not hesitate. Although it was pitch dark, he fired five shots against the barrier in quick succession. Then he looked up. A flash of lightning showed the crowding craft in the wildest confusion. A volley of rifle bullets rattled about him, but the fire was ineffectual.

Straight ahead!" cried Bardoff to his pilot. "I shall break the line of boats by the time we reach them-

Another roar of the garrison guns and one of the shells carried away the black flag at the prow, another grazed the armored cabin where Dorothy stood at her post. The Alldeen listed to port, and the water poured over her deck for

The prince jammed another cartridge home and thundered his way through the ranks of the opposing forces, "One thing is sure; if a shell ever hits us--Crash! came a shot, striking the deck between the solitary gunner and his pilot, plowing it up and throwing the prince flat upon his back, stunned and

but the gunner motioned her back under cover and staggered to his feet. She re-

blazed away again and again full into the closing ranks of the dahabeahs till the Alldeen was upon them, tearing her way through the barrier with termine momentum. Then he ran back under of wood. cover and seized his rifles.

Fearing that their own allies might be hit, the garrison guns ceased their booming, and the flash of lightning showed the confusion of the struggling dervishes in their sinking dahabeahs. strain." The seven-pounder had done deadly werk, and the masts of three of the boats were protruding above the water. Dorothy.

To port and starboard the Alldeen struck the wooden craft, but the dark-ness was so intense and the confusion of the fifth cataract, we must reach narrow channel. For some time she so appalling that none dared board the shore, and with our provisions, too." runaway till a broadside collision took place, and in the lightning's gleam two or three of the crew leaped upon the Alldeen's deck, standing there apparently bewildered.

doff. One after another the dervishes went down before the deadly repeater.

The shricking and commotion was in
It was a herculean task, but with he
Dorothy tried to raise her voice, but Crack! crack! went the rifle of Bartense, though for fear of hitting their till the Alldeen broke through the ranks and dashed into clear water. Then came a perfect fusilade of hot shot.

inopportune flash of lightning water, and the guns of the garrison began their thundering again.

The prince had regalited his post at

the engines, and was piling in fuel. A A sense of helplessness came over the shot struck the boiler and sent a hissof the armored cabin underneath which nest Upon this appalling catastrophe Bar-

doff ran forward, feeling sure that his chest to the center of the raft and be- gan to wane.

Upon his hands and knees in the roar ness, the prince crept under the twisted and contorted iron superstructure, finding his fair pilot lying upon her face stunned and unconscious, but breathing faintly. He drew her from under the wreckage and laid her tenderly forward out of the cloud of smothering steam.

The storm was passing, the thunder the garrison guns kept up an ineffec-

Three dead dervishes lay upon the deck. Bardoff stripped them of their arms and threw the bodies overboard. Then as a fortunate flash of lightning showed the Alldeen to be dangerously the broken tiller and managed to swerve the craft into the stream again. he returned to Dorothy, who sat up or less neutral country. The people now with her hands pressed to her are Mahdists, to be sure, but not so

thought I was killed. That, shotthat awful bolt-I thought it every bone in my body. How my head

dropping by her side.

"You must have something to revive ou," and the prince ran for a restora-

The parched lips drank with eagerness. "Are we out of danger?" she whispered. "Have we passed Berber at

"What is that roaring? Is it in my

till morning. In the meantime I doubt so narrow that it appeared to pour its through the fifth cataract which we are bound to reach before daybreak.

"Take courage, my little heroine. We and safely through the fifth cataract, and then we can scuttle the yacht and take to the desert. We have had enough we aren't prepared for it.'

"A miracle, said Dorothy, "Ah, it is a miracle. I thought the blow was ping of the craft of her guns and mastruck at last, and that we were lost.' Providence. These cowards are not afraid of the muzzles of the glaour's repeater, but thunder and lightning put them to rout. Berides, our sevenpounder sank three of their boats, and placed others in a sad plight. But here; we shall be on shore sooner than we

wish if we do not mind our helm. Bardoff gave a tug at the rudder rope and then went back to the engines, steam. "She is almost on her last legs. If we can only make our way through

the fifth cataract—"
Suddenly Dorothy's pale face broke through the cloud of steam. "Can you set the number to work?" the sked

"Why?" was the excited query.
"Because, from the swish of things
through the hole in the deck, yonder, a mighty fury.

This story commenced in The Times | I judge that the poor Alldeen is more ! "My God!" sighed the prince bitterly.

CHAPTER XXII.

Hanging by a Thread.

For the rest of that eventful night the two refugees were in momentary peril of going down with the Alldeen It was not until long after daybreak that the swiftness of the Nile current and the increasing narrowness of the stream inuicated the approach to the fifth cataract

survey the prospect. "I like the looks of things," he said scanning the heights which they were now skirting. "The river is high, and we have a good chance to shoot the rapids if we can only lighten the boat.'

Then Prince Bardoff ran forward to

'How far away are we from the cataract?" asked Dorothy.
"An hour at most. We must begin to

stanchions. "It's like losing an old friend," he said bitterly, "and our best defender. But there's no help for it. We may be

another hour. Dorothy watched the loosening of the seven-pounder, which had helped them loome break through the lines of Berber and life! had annihilated two fleets of pursuers; and as the long steel tube slid down and disappeared in the Nile, it seemed

it. She told this to the Russian. "Stand by your post!" he called out, and throwing himself upon his gun, Besides, it is better that these guns go we floated long enough to reach there. them overboard than that they should fall into the hands of the enemy.

into the furnace went the last armful still water.

"We might as well pitch the engines and boilers over next," added the prince. "Why so?"

"We have reached the end of our fuel and the boilers are weakening with the God!" she moaned, "the prince is lost-strain." "Cut up these carriages. Strip the

The woman's brow clouded. "C with everything, then," she sighed. The pumps had cleared the hold below have arrived. The prince straightway over the turmoil of waters.

role industry it was soon accomplished. own men the firing had almost ceased First one and then the other of the huge after a little time that the prince reboilers were toppled over upon the deck's edge, listing the Alldeen to a pointed the fleeing craft's place in free meal, and thus the Alldeen soon found herself without the power of a locomotion or resistance against even a deha-

runaways, and they realized the desing jet of hot water and steam into the air. A second and a third volley from time to repine, however, and the construct out for the opposite shore. garrison resulted in the destruction struction of the raft was begun in ear-

> marked the prince, as he spiked a small gan filling it with their necessities.

our last breakfast on board the Alldeen. It may be the last for-" "Don't say 'forever' " broke in Doro-

thy, with quivering lips. Then, after a moment: "Do you know, the thought of leaving the Alldeen, after she has borne us safely to this haven of refuge, distresses me more than I can tell. Does it affect you at all?"

dare not give way to sentiment, said the prince. "The Alldeen has done us good service, but there is no use clinging to her from an impulse of gratitude. All I want to do is to shoot the cataract and get as far along toward near the lee shore, the prince ran to Abou Hamed as possible. We have trusted ourselves to the water long enough. We are getting into a more rabid and fanatical as those farther 'Are you badly hurt?" he asked, south, under the immediate influence of the Mahdi, or his successor. I think shall be able to handle them when the

broke time comes.' Dorothy was scanning the cliffs of throbs! Are you speaking? I am so sandstone, which seemed to have been deaf I cannot hear a thing. Don't leave cleft by the steadily flowing Nile at some remote period, and now towered above them like white hooded senti-Suddenly she saw the prince's nels. face blanch, as he slammed down the lid of the provision chest, and ran forward to the tiller ropes.

"Stand by," he commanded. "It will "Yes, thank heaven." responded the take two to manage this wreck through the cataract."

Dorothy crept under cover and took her position. From her point of vant-"Escaping steam. The boilers have age she saw the writhing, seething catabeen hard hit, and there is no remedy ract not a mile ahead. The river was whether we have fuel enough to plunge huge volume through a mighty funnel. in the foam-flecked mass could be seen

points of rock. "Keep to the right of the channel!" are a long way from defeat yet. Mind commanded the prince; "keep to the you, I only wanted to get by Berber right and avoid the rocks. It is a dan-

gerous pass, but the only one." "God save us!" murmured Dorothy. The prince leaned over the prow and It is too open warfare, and noted that the Alldeen was as high out with telegraph wire. of water as could be expected-fully nine inches higher than before the strip- above, "and I will lower another wire

> poor shot-battered Alldeen began a the chest. dance of death in the lashing Nile.

After once encountering the cataract that the rudder was useless. Now listing to port, now careening to starboard, the wreck was clutched in the which were enveloped in clouds of powerful grip of the currents, whirled of the seething maelstrom stern foremost, until it struck upon a half sub-

merged rock.

The blow strained every beam and seam from garboard strake to deck buttress. Then the waves broke over the craft, tore her from her temporary anchorage, and plunged her onward with a mighty fur.

managed to creep back and reach the little shelter where Dorothy was still "Are you ready?" came the call a elinging to the tiller ropes.

"She won't stand this pounding long," cried the prince above the roar of the cataract. "We might as well prepare for a swim. If I could only get the raft oose. I would lash you to it and trust to luck-

crash. Bardoff ran forward, The Alldeen's bow had been stove in, and the craft was rapidly settling.

'That's our death warrant!" cried he. 'She'll go down in a minute, now."
"To the raft, then!" Dorothy sprang rward through knee-deep water.

A great coil of rope was wound around ing itself free from the Alldeen.

with terrific speed.

struction was met, or the raft would beyond their detection. never have survived that mad torrent. "Now for the final plunge," cried Barcompelled to take to a plank before doff, gazing through the drenching spray If we pass that we shall reach was suddenly relaxed.

open water and be saved-The sentence was broken short, for the raft seemed suddenly to have been to bear a portion of her very heart with lifted by some submarine monster and

a moment, and when she recovered con-"Comrade," called out Dorothy weak-

ly: "comrade, are you here?" There came no answer Dorothy struggled up and looked wildly about her. Then it came with crushing force. "My

An appalling desolation and sense of "We need all that for a raft. Mind the sky on either side, and heard only lay there, unable to move, "Over hope dead in her young heart, praying for a speedy end.

But soon there came a weak cry from decks of the swishing water, and the afar. With something of wonder and best time for the sacrifice seemed to alarm, the girl struggled up and gazed

the sound was too weak. It was only vived sufficiently to sit up and gaze despairingly over the Nile in search of his dangerous degree. Then they went fair charge. When he caught a glimpse overboard. The engines followed piece- of Dorothy, still upon the raft, he drew of Dorothy, still upon the raft, he drew himself up and gave a shout, "Safe, comrade?" he cried across the water. "Yes, thank God!" responded Dorothy

> Into the soldier's heart; and after a little For a while it looked as if he were going to make it with ease; but soon the

"Our lives on a toss of a shilling," re- swifter part of the current was encountered and the swimmer's strength be-

Dorothy encouraged him as he bat-Then, when all was done, he said to tled against the current. She could see there a ng dark- his companion: "Comrade, let us enjoy the straining white arms and the bloodshot eyes. Inch by inch she watched the soldier fighting against the current, laboring to gain the goal before the not speak. Then seeing a face which was a vain struggle, however. With clear, slow Russian: a final wave of the hand the poor fel- God's blessing upon you!" ow sank, just as he was borne around the edge of the towering cliff. For a full guage, half the monks rushed forward. oose from the raft. The bark which kneeling reverently kissed. edged its way to shore so that she was grave friar, "thou art welcome. But-

Seating herself amid the ragged edging her away, instantly." of boulders, the brave woman began to For the moment the prince was b think of what was to be done. She wildered. Dorothy did not understand culd pry open the chest and find food a word, but she divined her position. rough for some days, doubtless and

beckoning figure on the summit of the towering cliff above her.

'Heaven be praised!" she exclaimed. She leaped up and wayed her hands exultantly. "It is he-it is the prince! Then the girl asked herself how on arth did he ever gain that inaccessible

summit? Rushing about on the sands, the lone watcher was suddenly amazed to see the figure, so far above her, lowering something over the cliff that appeared to be a slender cord, from which was suspended a rock. Down and down it came yard after yard and rod after rod, till finally Dorothy ran to the spot where covered that the stone was bound round

"Make fast," was the order from and haul you up.'

Dorothy did as she was commanded. "That means our salvation," he mut- and soon another wire was seen dangtered. Then they plunged into the roar ling over the cliff and descending to her. and turmoff of the cataract, and the Tied to the end of this was the key to "Comrade," was the next order, "let

me first haul up the arms and ammuthe force of the waters was so great nition, then what food there is left. I think we can fight our way to Suskim

Dorothy found the ammunition in for I shall be faithful." heir sealed boxes perfectly preserved; one the loads went up the cliff.

waist and make fast," came the final silence.

order from above, "and begin to climb Dorothy was delighted with the spir-

Then she took hold of the other wire girl and her protector together. and pulled herself up hand over hand, wire upon which she was sitting. For a had come upon them. The rest of the sentence was lost in time all went well. Slowly, without jerk- the fathers for their mercy and kinding or sudden halts, the slender iron ness, will you not, comrade?" wire drew her up and up and up, and between the pauses Dorothy looked

about her. A sudden faintness soon began to come arms and effects in hiding, that no one over her. The appalling height, the may discover our whereabouts." slender thread that dangled her between heaven and earth, life and eternity, and without mishap. There he gathered up ed up, and before the window of the the life raft, and upon it the heroine the consciousness of waning strength, the contents of the chest, which he had cavern she saw a fluttering bit of paper was lashed, in a position where she began to tell upon her courage. In the hauled up from the shore of the Nile, might cling to the chest, already se-very midst of this herculean task, Barcured to the flooring. The vessel was doff's eyes happened to glance up the precious stores, settling slowly, and the raft was work- Nile toward the cataract, and his heart sank at the sight of four dahabeahs in secreting the last vestige of the A sudden lurch of the vessel dashed loaded down with armed dervishes, treasure trove, than, on returning throw things overboard, or we shall the raft against the deck. Then the thundering down the rapids in pursuit the verge of the precipice, he was went down. The raft with the two Without further hesitation the prince

Without further hesitation the prince

We shad on the very float over the rocks. It's the poor Alldeen careened to starboard and went down. The raft with the two ment before the pursuers were abreast with the wires which hung over the work of the spot and had caught sight of the coge. began loosening the big gun from its mooring and sped down the channel dangling atom of humanity swinging between heaven and earth far up the It was fertunate, indeed that no ob- cliff side, though the prince himself was

Suddenly there arose a chorus of shrieks through the cavernous Nile bed, a volley of rifle shots rang out like the toward a great wall of water that cracking of twigs in a fierce gale, and comed up before them. "Cling for your then the strain upon the slender wire

CHAPTER XXIII.

hurled through the air. Then it was A Struggle on the Brink of Eternity. "Oh, it's not so bad," said he. "We dashing head foremost into a seething shall soon abandon the ship, for we could never pass Abou Hamed, even if able crest like a towering flend before peril she was in from the dervishes, us of the them out." who were trying to kill her with their Dorothy was completely overcome for rifles, she was struggling to gain the moment, and when she recovered con-ciousness she found herself lying flat on of what appeared to be a rectangular "True." Over went the last gun and her back on the raft in comparatively hole in the solid rock, up whose side she we was climbing, there was thrust a handa human hand, old and withered.

The girl felt herself dragged into a

cave, where she sank down before a muzzie. If you meet with resistance, score of graybeard monks, each in his shoot them down—the whole dastardly dark cowl, their eyes gleaming with pack. Are you ready?"

It was a long time before Prince Bar- tion, then ran back to his hiding place doff could summon up the courage to and armed himself. When he returned vessel of the woodwork," suggested helplessness came over her. She saw only the towering chalk cliffs sweeping been into the depths to ascerpice and peer into the depths to ascer-tain the fate of his beloved comrade. ed, then he threatened. When he saw the abrupt erding of the wire he came to the conclusion that you through like a Christian. By Allah; Dorothy had fallen and been dashed to the latter idea seemed quite impossible The dahabeahs could never have paused n their mad race and picked up their

Suddenly, to his astonishment, there fluttering bit of muslin tied to the end. The prince breathlessly drew the strange 'Monks' cave midway down. Come,

For a few moments this strange and loose wire about him. poles along the high bank, the brave and commanding.

man made the perilous descent until he A terrible oath escaped him. At first That solace seemed to put new life

nonks of the Nile. shot out to his rescue.

"What a Godsend-what a miracle!" by which Bardoff had pinloned him, standing in spectral silence, perfectly motionless and dumbfounded.

For a moment the newcomer could swift waters should bear him on looked as if it might be that of one around the verge of a great cliff. It of his own countrymen, he spoke in "Holy father,

With the sound of their native lar hour Dorothy sat there like a statue. The patriarchal father advanced and After a time she rallied and cut herself offered his hand, which the prince

had been her temporary refuge had "My son," were the first words of the nabled to step from the raft to the He turned toward Dorothy-"thou knowrocks and feel the solid earth beneath est the rules of our order. It is unlawner for the first time since leaving ful that any woman shall set foot in this sacred temple. Thou must take

"Holy father," said Bardoff, "know even if the prince did not succeed im- that I am a prince of the blood, by ediately in making his way back to right of birth a dignitary of the holy er, as she felt that he certainly would Russian Church, which has sent thee scener or later, she could survive the here to fulfil the vows of chastity and truggle and turmoil, nature inter- lifelong penance. Know also, though posed and Dorothy sank upon the sands, this fair being is a woman in heart overed her face and soon fell into and soul, strength and courage, she excels any man I ever knew, and is She awoke with a start in answer to worthy of thy hospitality. I was envoice. She could not seem to realize abled by the grace of God to rescue her whence it came. She looked up to see from the Moslem hardes through stratagem; and we have fought our way through fire and flood, through starvation and peril, until suddenly in our least extremity we happen upon thy good grace and hospitality. If the God fectly purple, and he falls to his knees who bids thee to the desert hath also led His helpless ones to seek shelter beneath thy wing, holy father, deny us not; but in His name perform thy duty

s becomes a patriarch of the church, nd heaven shall reward thee mightily. Duty and pity struggled in the old monk's heart. After a moment's meditation, he drew his brothers aside, and solemn converse in whispers decided

sudden and unexpected blow. Bardoff "Prince," said the graybeard, returnng, "thou and she whom thou hast is struck down at the very edge of the escued from the accused Moslem shall awful chasm, emain here; but under the conditions that she speak no word to any brother here, that she be called 'Brother Paul.' brother. Have I thy promise, prince ger, agein kneeling and clasping the man, wrenches him over and sends him holy father's hand thankfully. he turned to poor Dorothy, and told he, low.

in whispers the enalty of silence im-

'Fear nothing,' she said, pressing her swam in a red maze before his sight lips to the prince's ear; "fear nothing, Consciousness left him for the instant, Such food as the monks were per- It was during her sound slumber i around and around, and then shot out and, though much of the food was mitted to cat on days of especial feast- the cell far below that a shrill shriek

water soaked, it was too precious to ing was brought-dates, dried figs, a awoke poor Dorothy, and climbing half throw away on that account. One by kind of shew bread, and a jug of most out of the cavern window, her heart exquisite Russian liquor. The two visi- sank as she discovered that the wires "Now bind the right wire around your tors sat down and ate and drank in were nowhere to be seen, while far be-

By a superhuman effort the prince | wire will hold; so don't be afraid. I'm | crept to one side and sank down upon | She felt a repetition of that frightful | hand and gazed upon the amazed the hard floor,

Dorothy had made a noose in one wire.

a pillow of husks, "Give our good brother Paul a comforter," he said. She sat in it and answered: "Ready!" Forthwith he turned away and left the

'Wonderful, wonderful!" sighed Dorowhile the prince took in the slack of the thy, hardly realizing that good fortune "Be at peace," said her companion. "Sleep here in quiet, while I climb back

to the summit of the crag and put our The prince made the dangerous ascent

Bardoff had no more than succeeded

To his horror the prince discovered one of them to be no less a personage than the emir who had planned the kidnaping of the "angel of light" Khartoum.

This dignitary had been one of the first in pursuit. Finding that the Alldeen had been abandoned, and recognizing his prize dangling in midair as he shot down the Nile, he had made a landing and returned to the spot with "So," he was overheard to say, "that

Russian Giaour and the 'angel' have taken refuge in the caves of the accarsed monks. Well, we must rout

"But how?" was the query of his

companion. "You a faithful son of one of the faithful, and ask how? Go to! These dogs of monks are never armed, while " he patted his belt full of knives and pistols. "Nothing easier. I will let you down on these wires, and you make your demands at the pistol's

The prince listened to the conversa violent argument. The emfr first plead-

"Go, dog!" he cried, "or I will run you are no better than a white faced pieces, or else that she had been seized infidel! Down with you and the reward by the enemy and borne away. And yet shall be yours. Take the temple by storm, I command you. I will bring you safe back. Bind the 'angel' and I will draw her safely to the summit. prize. Whither, then, had poor Dorothy Fear nothing. I shall not let you fall. Go while it is yet time."

With many misgivings the underling came a tug at the wire, and, looking did the will of his master; but it was did the will of his master; but it was as a man who goes to his death in pursuance of his duty. No sooner had he ige up, and, seizing it, read: begun the descent down the cliff, than In the meantime feed and shelter our Prince Bardoff came up behind the Mahdist commander and threw a coil of

nexpected rescue seemed beyond be- The emir turned and saw his predica-Then, letting down a coil of wire, ment. Both hands supported his friend, which he had cut from the telegraph and before him was an armed man, calm

ound himself dangling before a series he tried to leap aside, but a sudden fast in the love of the Lord and protect of windows cut in the solid crag-port-holes to the cave temples of the hermit his knees. Seeing that in order to save his own life it was necessary to sacrifice "Come in here, quick!" A white hand that of his ally, the emir let go the was all the prince could gasp as he crept The prince now found himself face to "All is well. Go!" Climbing into the

sary whom he had ever met. The prince rushes upon the emir with pistol full into the Russian's face, but mit. misses him. The weapon is struck from the emir's hand with a back slap of now, and over all the strange world he stretched himself out at full length Bardoff's sword. The emir draws his there lay a solemn and beautiful light,

Each is trying to back the other to the edge of the cliff, where a false step means death. The Mahdist mutters means death.

"So, dog of a giaour; this is the way that you reward me for saving your life, is it" Then with each furious slash of the sword, "Take that-and that-and that!" "And so, hound of a Mahdiist," re

onds the prince, "this is the manner in which you reward me for having and that!" But both lunges fall short. Finally,

with a terrific clashing of swords, the

prince's unfortunately snaps off close to the hilt. The emir gives a fierce chuckle and his teeth gleam as he makes a quick lunge. Bardoff stumbles over a coil of wire, and in the very madness of the moment, seizes it. The dervish is down upon him like a whirlwind, his sword grazing his side; but in the mix-up the Christian manages to throw the coil mighty tug tightens the wire about his enemy's throat. His face becomes per-Bardoff is upon him in an instant. crushing him to the earth. He wrenches

the sword from the mighty clench, and the weapon breaks off short. Then the hand to hand tussle begins in deadly earnest. Round and round the emir the smothering colls tighten, like a serpent's, and he begins to weaken. Nearer and nearer the verge of the precipice

Had the emir been half free at this thy companion remain silent- terrible moment, the game would have been his. But in making the second tunge to drive his adversary over the and in all things treated as a man and cliff, he stumbles in the coil and falls prostrate upon Bardoff. The prince "Before heaven!" answered the stran. clutches him with the grip of a madflying headlong down to the rocks be-

> The Russian lay quivering and ex hausted after the struggle. Everything and life itself was all but extinct.

> low there lay a shapeless mass under a

ordeal she had experienced on the raft woman before him, his whole frame A good father brought to the prince that morning. And yet, somehow, she trembling with insupportable emotion could not believe that he was dead. Bardoff had performed so many miracles, had fought his way through so shrunken finger tips were laid upon the many adversities, that it seemed as if tremulous lips and a look implored sia special guardian angel watched him lence. Then the patriarch turned away. for her sake, and that he was yet to be

restored to her. Suddenly, amid these terrible musings, her. She tried to see whom the fighters signs and pantomimic gestures the holy were. She recognized Bardoff's voice. past her in its swift and terrible descent. Then Dorothy fainted. She looktied to the end of a bit of yarn.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Of One Blood.

"My Dear Comrade-I have just had the fight of my life, and I do not feel equal to the gathering of more wire from the telegraph poles to enable me to return to you tonight. I shall find ready ambush, and as I have plenty of food here, do not worry about me. I shall recover my strength and then seek a camel for our eastward journey.

"I inclose a message written on a page torn from my note book. It is in Russian, and you must give it to the holy father, who, I doubt not, will do every thing for your comfort. Keep his com mand in silence; and if you do not hear from me for two or three days, fear nothing, for I shall surely return and bear you safely to civilization. I shall get the ropes from the raft below somehow and contrive to lift you out of trouble. As long as you are with the holy men you are safe; for the fathers are sacred even in Moslem eves, the Koran making it a crime for them to be molested. I shall await your answer here till sunset, then start on foot toward Abou Hamed for camels. I can fight my way where I cannot bribe it, and bribe it where I cannot fight; so fear nothing. Adieu, and be of good cheer! God bless you."

The inclosure was addressed to the holy father of the Order of St. Anthony of the Desert:

'O, holy father, I greet thee 'n the name of God and the illustrious saint whose temple here thou hast conse crated with thy fasting and prayer. I command to thy loving kindness and keeping the virgin sister whom I have

rescued from the hands of the merciless Moslem after the fall of Khartoum. Guard and keep her in the name of the Father and the Son in the favor of holy Saint Anthony, who fasted here in the desert and first made the place of na, who is besieging Suakim, on the Red thy worship. "I go to Abon Hamed for camels that

the wilderness to far Soudan. Deo volente. I shall return in three days, beloved sister, and may the Father reward thee abundantly. "If perchance thou hast a wish which palace.

world, communicate it to me, and I swear it shall be granted thee, "In the meantime, holy father, give me thy prayers and blessings. Be stead-

"Prince Andrea St. Vladimir Bardoff." Dorothy tore the edge from the sheet of paper, and, in lieu of a better thing bargain. "I am sorry to part with her, wires suddenly, and threw off the coil to indite her reply, cut into the little master, for she has a fine foalsheet with her finger nail the words: into the great temple and confronted face with the most formidable adverthe dangling thread. A signal to the patient watcher high above, and the camels are not worth 200 in Omdurman

> The shades of night were deepening own gleaming blade, and the two fight Up from the Nile bed far beneath the there on the verge of eternity like sav- white mists arose, and from the dim south the roar of the cataract came clearer through the vaporous depths The summits of the opposite crags seemed tipped with gold, in the evening light, and above them hovered shifting clouds like skeins of royal purple

spun into fantastic shapes. The sacred stillness of that cave tem ple was ineffably solemn and sweet; I will report to the Khalifa when I reand when through the dark halls and horn-the very same which had been curse to the faithful in time of distress. blown daily at sunrise and sunset for I shall seek cisewhere." hundreds of years-the weird sound echoed mournfully over the Nile and impressed with the stranger's repro quavered down the bleak wastes of the

Libyan desert far beyond. Dorothy stood entranced. With this solemn farewell to the departing day there came the chant of aged voices lifting their orisons in the ever, in what money is the coin? twilight gloom. Then was dimly seen through the bleak archways the grave procession of the brown cowled fathers, advancing with crossed hands upon their bosom and bowed heads toward the chapel, where the evening prayers were said in tremulous monotones inex-

pressibly beautiful. Never in all her life was the American so moved as by this reverent rite of peace and resignation and humility performed by this score or more of whitehaired venerables, tottering upon the very verge of the grave.

more natural thing in the world than There was something about it so unworldly and spiritual, contrasting sharply with the wild and turbulent scenes among the savage hordes of fanatical Mahdists, from whose midst Dorothy had escaped by a miracle. The girl crept to the archway and watched the holy fathers at their even-

knees upon the hard stone floor, with their chief patriarch standing upon the rude altar in the vestments of his order. Two wax candles cast a weird glow over the bowed heads. Prayer followed prayer, and chant followed chant, until over the silent river

ing devotions, as they knelt with bared

treated in solemn procession to their cells. Dorothy crept back to her place and waited the coming of the old patriarch, who soon brought her the evening meal bread and honeyed water, a thimble cup of spirits, dates, figs, and a pome-

Dorothy greeted him according to her vows, but with every show of thankfulness; and then gave him the message from the prince. The old man read the tiny sheet slowly by the dim light of waist and make fast," came the final silence.

order from above, "and begin to climb up the cliff hand over hand on the left wire. Take it slowly, and I am sure the After she had partaken of the food she that her contrade had met his death.

low there lay a shapeless mass under a dervish gibbeh.

For a few mements Dorothy thought the signature with eagerness. Then he dropped the note from his quivering

granate.

Dorothy gave him a questioning look, but ere she could breathe a whisper the

and mystifying episode that the old monk returned; and when he did, he there fell upon the woman's ears the bore a little reed pipe, which, when sound of a mighty combat far above blown, gave forth a plaintive sound. By man made Dorothy understand that she Then in a moment she saw a body fall was to enjoy the freedom of the cave monastery, but wherever she went she was to sound the pipe before her, so that the friars should know of her presence and turn their faces away to pray. Then, after she had eaten, the patriarch led his guest through the archway along the cliff's interior, far on to a row of some forty hollowed out cells, bare, bleak, and forbidding, each one tenanted by a praying father upon It was a message from the prince, and his knees, with head buried from the sight of the stranger, who blew her pipe softly as she passed along, until the two had reached the very end of the narrow corridor, where there were a few empty cells.

There the patriarch bade his guest enter. Upon the low bed, which was but a narrow ledge chiseled from the solid rock, there had been spread a few rugs and blankets, with a husk pillow at the head-all of which worldly luxuries were denied the brothers themselves.

In the meantime Prince Bardoff had made his way with caution to Abou Hamed and entered the city walls by night. After making a few purchases at the lessar bazaars-provisions, water skins and, above all important, a three hundred foot coil of rope-the started to the outskirts in search of a good camel for his purpose. He was not long in finding a strong

animal, which was lying in the valley, not far from the city gates. The prince entered into conversation with the owner, whom he found to be one of the treacherous tribe of the Monasir. "Friend, dost thou own this camel?" began the prince, waking him from

when he arose and confronted one in the uniform of the mahdi and evidently a stranger, he was doubly perplexed. "I own it, master," he said gravely. 'It is my sole possession, by Allah!"

"Wilt thou sell it to me?" said the prince bluntly. The man hesitated, "Who art thou and what is thy use for the samel? "That is my business," repred Bar-"But, if you must know before you sell, I am one of the messengers of the Khalifa Abdullah from far Obdurman

The monasir bowed, for the words we may make our way by night through were spoken with some sciemnity. "Go, then, to the emir Abou Ham-ed, master," said he. "He will provide

I bear important tidings to Osman Dig-

thee with camels if thine own have fallen by the wayside. Come; gladly will I show thee the way to the emir's "I know the way, for I have been I may fulfill upon my return to the there," said the prince, recalling an episode which happened some years before, when he was a guest at the palace. "I have naught to do with the emir, but with the pasha, Osman Digna, whom I must reach without delay. Camels we

have not, and there is no time to tarry Come; wilt thou sell?' The sheik saw a chance for a good

"So much the better." "She is worth 600 pieces of money, "It is too much. Why, the best of

drawn sword. The latter discharges a message was lifted over the cliff sum- and it is a time of war when beasts of burden are scarce.' "My price is six," said the sheik, and

upon the thin grass. The prince was in a quandary. Here was a fine camel and undoubtedly one able to carry a heavy burden to Snakim The price was insignificant sidered; but if the rascal received his price he would straighaway rush into Abou Hamed and tell of his triumph, to

the prince's downfall. "Thou art a sorry dog, accursed son of a monasir," cried Bardoff, turn. He shall command the emir of oratories there sounded the great ram's Abou Hammed to hunt thee down as a cried the camel's owner,

> "Make me an offer and I will consider. "I will give 300 pieces. "Curse me for a Christian!" swore the other, "but thou art a hard man to deal with, on my life, thou art! How-

"In khayala pounds sterling," was the

"Stay!"

answer. (This is the local vernacular English sovereigns, meaning cavalry, from the image of St. George and the dragon engraved upon them). The monasir's eyes were aglow. Paper money was worthless, bad silver scarce, good silver rare, and gold almost never met with in that region. If the man had had any doubts hitherto that the stranger was a representative of the Khalifa, the successor of the

that the Khalifa would send his emissary forth well supplied with "But show me one," said the fellow skeptically. The prince reached beneath his gibbeh and procured a coin. As he stooped down he was careful at the same time to display a belt stuck with revolvers

Mahdi, he hesitated no longer.

and knives, which had the effect of quelling any undue familiarity. The native took the coin, weighed it caressingly in his hand, and then kissed it with a resounding smack. "How

it with a resounding smack. "How many of these are in 300 pieces, mas-ter?" he inquired meekly. "There are fifty-two, son of a mona-sir; but I will be liberal. I will give thee sixty." was sounded again the ram's horn of thee sixty."

"Done!" cried the owner of the came Then the fathers rose and re-

In less time than seemed befitting so momentous an occasion, the sixty pieces were counted out into the prince's left hand. "Come," said Barloff, having thoroughly maddened the man's cupidity, "let me mount and ride the camel a mile while thou lead'st. I must make save that she is sound and an easy ure that she is sound and an

"At thy pleasure, master,"
The camel was kicked upon her feet, and Barioff mounted, having adjusted the rude saddle and blankets, and threwing ever the pummel the purchases from the bazaar of Abou Hamed. The pair passed on down the rawing in silence until they reached a solitary well,

(To Be Continued Next Sunday.)